

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 HEW-06 TRSE-00 /035 W

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O R 061330Z SEP 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2328

USDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY YEIRUT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0927

BEIRUT FOR AGATT

E.O. 116&: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, IZ, US

SUBJECT: VESSEL HELD BY IRAQIS

REFERENCE: STATE 211994 (NOTAL)

1. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL (A/DG) SHEIKHLY OF IRAQI
GRAIN BOARD TOLD USINT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SEPTEMBER SIXTH
THAT VESSEL MAVRO VETRANIC UNDER CHARTER TO COOK INDUSTRIES
IS BEING DETAINED AT BASRA PENDING ADVICE OF USDA RPT USDA
AS TO HOW PROCEED. HE SAID 750,000 DOLLARS INVOLVED IS BANK
GUARANTEE WHICH GRAIN BOARD IMPOSED ON COOK AT USDA SUGGESTION.
GRAIN BOARD HAS SENT SAMPLES OF WHEAT TO USDA MARKETING DEPART-
MENT IN WASHDC ALLEGEDLY
SHOWING MORE THAN 2 1/2 PERCENT INSECT
DAMAGE AND UNACCEPTABLY HIGH ADMIXTURE OF CORN (MAIZE) WITH
WHEAT.

2. URGED USINT PRESS USDA RESPOND QUICKLY AND ADVISE GRAIN
BOARD ON BEST WAY TO PROCEED. COMMENT: GRAIN BOARD CONFIDENCE
IN FAIRNESS OF USDA AS UMPIRE APPARENTLY VERY STRONG.

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3. ACTION SUGGESTED: GRAIN BOARD UNWILLING TO RELEASE

VESSEL ON USINT URGING ALONE. ON BASIS OF LIMITED INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO US, APPEARS IMPORTANT THAT VESSEL BE RELEASED
AZVB AND TWO PARTIES WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES LATER.
GRAIN BOARD IS IN STRONG POSITION BECAUSE OF ITS HOLD
ON BANK GUARANTEE. IN ANY EVENT, SUGGEST USDA AND
COOK INDUSTRIES HUDDLE ON BEST ADVICE USDA CAN SEND TO
GRAIN BOARD. SUGGEST ALL PARTIES REMEMBER THAT GRAIN
BOARD, THOUGH ONLY RECENTLY A STEADY BUYER OF US WHEAT,
CORN AND RICE, IS A GOOD ONE. IT MAY BE THAT ITS INEXPERIENCE
CAUSES IT TO MAKE PROCEDURAL MISTAKES BUT THERE IS NOT
REASON TO BELIEVE IT IS FALSIFYING ITS REPORT OF WHEAT
DAMAGE IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH
ON DEMURRAGE CLAIM.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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